

## BOOK REVIEWS

**CHILD PSYCHIATRY.** By Leo Kanner, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Professor of Psychiatry, The Johns Hopkins University, with prefaces by John C. Whitehorn, M.D., Henry Phipps Professor of Psychiatry, The Johns Hopkins University; Adolf Meyer, M.D., Henry Phipps Professor Emeritus, The Johns Hopkins University, and Edward A. Parks, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, The Johns Hopkins University. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1948. \$8.50.

This is a book which will go far to fill the need many pediatricians feel for a practical reference in the field of child psychiatry. It is a completely rewritten, second edition of a work which appeared in 1935 and was sufficiently well accepted to require five printings up to 1947. The thirteen years which have elapsed since the first printing are years of considerable growth in the field of child psychiatry. This growth, and the maturing effect the interval has had on Dr. Kanner's viewpoint, are both abundantly evident in this second edition.

The clarity of thought, the absence of specialized verbiage, and the general readability which characterize Dr. Kanner's writing, all add to the pleasure of using this text. His point of view is broad and "multidimensional"—and does not confine itself to a single school of thought.

Problems are well illustrated by examples taken from Dr. Kanner's clinical files, and references are abundant and up-to-date. The organization of the book and its index provide ready reference to everyday problems in child behavior.

More serious psychiatric disturbances are also discussed, but it is especially in the area of common behavior disturbances that the book is designed to offer the greatest help. It serves this purpose very well indeed.

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**MAGIC IN A BOTTLE.** By Milton Silverman, Ph.D., Science Editor, San Francisco Chronicle, Macmillan Co., 1948. \$3.50.

To write a reasonably accurate historical account of the development and use of many of the drugs which form an important part of the therapeutic armamentarium of the modern physician is a worthwhile accomplishment. To do so in a manner which is entertaining to the scientist and the medical practitioner, as well as to the layman, is a demonstration of an ability which is not frequently found. The author has done just that. Even though he has not attempted to produce an exhaustive account of this topic in this second edition of his book, he brings the subject matter up to date. Even though it is written more as a narrative than as a scientific thesis, it contains information which can be profitable to those who are interested in medical history and in the modern practice of medicine. The descriptions of the personalities involved are of special interest. The book is good reading.

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**TEXTBOOK FOR ALMONERS.** By Dorothy Manchec, Almoner, St. Mary's Hospital, London, and Foreword by Sir Alfred B. Howitt, C.V.O., M.D., President, Institute of Almoners (Chairman, Institute of Hospital Almoners 1931-1945), The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., 1947. \$7.50.

An almoner has been defined as: "An official distributor of the alms of another; a functionary in a religious house or in a hospital, such as a chaplain, etc."

This book deals with the origin and growth of the almoner's service, social legislation, the economic and social aspects of disease and the almoner's place in a rehabilitation scheme. At first glance the American reader might feel that

the text would only be of interest to hospital administrators and social service workers. However, since it represents the thinking of some distinguished medical sociologists in a country now thoroughly Beveridge-ized, our children may rebuke us for not taking off a few hours to peruse its contents.

St. Mary's Hospital in London has been visited by many physicians from California. The author has been almoner to that hospital for many years. The book was published before the National Health Act went into force but does contain many references to the adumbrating legislation.

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**1948 YEARBOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY.** Edited by J. P. Greenhill, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S. The Yearbook Publishers, Inc., Chicago, Ill., 1949. \$4.50.

The 1948 Yearbook of Obstetrics and Gynecology edited by J. P. Greenhill, M.D., of Chicago, like most former editions by this author, is a complete survey of the worthwhile literature of this field of medicine of the entire world. The Yearbook, with the crisp, honest comments of the editor, makes for pleasant as well as beneficial reading.

The Section on Obstetrics gives an encouraging report on the reduction of maternal and fetal mortality. The subject of the Rh factor is well covered, as well as the problem of rubella complicating the early months of pregnancy. Two new analgesics are presented—dolophine and inhalation trile. The cesarean problem is well presented. The question of whether repeat sections should always be done is discussed by Greenhill. He feels that in most instances the danger of rupture is too great to allow these patients to go into labor.

In the section on Gynecology there are several articles reviewing the importance and value of hysterosalpingography for conditions other than sterility. Total hysterectomy continues to be a much discussed problem and the editor's comment on the articles by Pfaneuf and Jones is particularly timely, that is, "despite the advisability of total operations, men with limited experience in pelvic surgery are wise to perform supravaginal hysterectomies." Urinary incontinence and prolapse of the vaginal vault and the cervical stump are carefully reviewed.

The section on menstruation and endocrinology will save hours of useless reading because all of the worthwhile articles are summarized and Dr. Greenhill has crystallized the thinking of most gynecologists in a very satisfactory manner.

As usual, everyone doing Obstetrics and Gynecology should have this valuable epitome of the literature of 1948.

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**FAILURES IN PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT.** Edited by Paul H. Hoch, M.D., New York State Psychiatric Institute, N. Y. C.; Principal Research Scientist (Psychiatry), New York State Psychiatric Institute; Associate in Psychiatry, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, N. Y. C.—The Proceedings of the Thirty-seventh Annual Meeting of the American Psychopathological Association, held in New York City, June 1947. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1948. \$4.50.

This book contains the procedures of the 37th annual meeting of the American Psychopathological Association held in June, 1947. It is of special interest because unlike most reports it does not discuss cures and ways in which success was achieved. Instead it discusses the failures and the reasons for failure. This is a very interesting and valuable approach. In most books, emphasis has been mainly on doing certain things which will achieve cure. Causes of failure have been touched on many times but there are very few